

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph 25 as follows:

In addition, the imaging unit 11 is provided with a diffusion plate 26 at a position (hereinafter, referred to as out-of-light-path position) P1 other than on the light path of the near-infrared light. This diffusion plate 26 can move between the out-of-light-path position P1 and a position (hereinafter, referred to as on-light-path position) P2 a prescribed distance away from the solid imaging element 24.

Please amend paragraph 26 as follows:

Furthermore, in this imaging unit 11, a finger FG can be inserted between the first filter 22 and the second filter 23, and a shielding unit 25 for blocking the outside light in the air out of the light path of the near-infrared light while the finger FG is inserted is provided, thereby being capable of reducing influences of visible light and ultraviolet radiation existing out of the shielding unit 25 on the near-infrared light in imaging the blood vessels inside the finger FG.

Please amend paragraph 39 as follows:

In actual, the encryption key information creation unit 15 controls the diffusion plate 26 of the imaging unit 11 (Fig. 3) so as to move from the out-of-light-path position P1 to the on-light-path position P2, and sends an imaging command to the imaging unit 11.

Please amend paragraph 40 as follows:

In this case, in the imaging unit 11 (Fig. 3), the diffusion plate ~~[[25]]~~ 26 is irradiated with near-infrared light emitted from the light sources 21 via the first and second filters 22 and 23 in order, and diffuses the light toward the solid imaging element 24 as uniform diffused light (hereinafter, referred to as uniform diffused light), so that the light enters the solid imaging element 24.

Please amend paragraph 71 as follows:

In this case, the encryption key information creation unit 15 makes the imaging unit 11 image the diffusion plate ~~[[25]]~~ 26 and creates a unique parameter as encryption key information based on a signal obtained as the imaging result. This invention, however, is not limited to this and the imaging unit 11 can image another uniform imaging target other than the diffusion plate ~~[[25]]~~ 26, or only a unique parameter can be created without creating the encryption key information. In short, another kind of creation unit for creating a unique parameter can be used.